



NSW Snowsports Alpine Committee

Annual General Meeting, Saturday 24th October 2015

Chairman's Report

2015 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

NSWACT Alpine Teams

In 2015 NSW Alpine and ACT Alpine combined again to announce NSWACT Open, Junior and Children's teams thereby recognizing alpine athletes who are performing at high level in the sport and meet published criteria for inclusion in the state teams.

This year the teams comprised –

Open	4	(2 female and 2 male athletes)
Junior (FIS)	11	(5 female and 6 male athletes)
Childrens	23	(11 female and 12 male athletes)

Additionally it gives NSWACT the opportunity to further support these athletes in a practical way –

Subsidised team jackets - presented to team members at a team function in July;
NSWACT Team Athlete Grants – this year NSWACT paid cash grants to alpine athletes aged 14 years and above in the state teams who applied for the grant to assist them in meeting training, race entry and travelling costs -

Specifically 18 athletes who were awarded the grant received:

Under 14's	\$200
Under 16's	\$400
Junior team (FIS) athletes	\$ 800
Open team (FIS) athletes	\$1500

There were also 3 Open team athletes whose race entry fees to the National Alpine Championships were paid by NSWACT Alpine.

The grants will be presented to the eligible athletes at tonight's awards presentation function.

There were some outstanding performances by NSWACT alpine athletes at this year's Australian National Alpine Championships held at Thredbo in early August and in the Australian New Zealand Cup series held at Perisher in late August.

NSW Open team member and Sochi Olympian Lavinia Chrystal successfully defended her National Giant Slalom title, also winning the National Junior GS race in her final event, announcing her retirement after the race having commenced her FIS racing career in Thredbo in 2004. Congratulations to Lavinia on her career which included her competing in 309 FIS races for 20 podium results including 12 wins

9 Australian national alpine titles including GS and Slalom titles in the same year in 2010 and 2014

National Alpine Team member 2007-2015

Olympic Winter Games Australian team member competing in Womens Slalom and Giant Slalom at Sochi 2014

FIS World Alpine Championship Australian representative Garmisch-Partenkirchen 2011 and Vail-Beaver Creek 2015

FIS Junior World Alpine Championship Australian representative Garmisch-Partenkirchen 2009.

Mt Buller Race Club athlete Jessica Haslau won the womens Australian National Slalom Championship title at Thredbo with Mt Hotham Race Club athlete Sophie Wood winning the womens Australian National Junior Slalom title and National Junior GS title – she finished 2nd to Lavinia Chrystal in the Australian National Giant Slalom.

NSWACT Open team member Matilda Coates finished 2nd in the womens National Junior Slalom Championship with NSWACT Junior team member Zali Offord in 3rd place.

In the mens events at the Australian National Giant Slalom Championships Perisher Winter Sport Club athlete Ross Peraudo won the title from Falls Creek Race Club athlete Alec Scott with NSWACT Open team member TSRC's Oliver Thompson in 3rd place overall & winning the Under 21s.

On day 2 of the championships Alec Scott won the Australian National Junior Championship Giant Slalom title.

The mens Australian National Championship Slalom title was won by Ross Peraudo with Alec Scott 2nd and Bennett Norbury 3rd.

In the mens Australian National Junior Championship Slalom Alec Scott finished 1st with Oliver Thompson 2nd and Jack Adams 3rd.

NSWACT Junior team member and NSWIS athlete TSRC's Jack Adams was 1st, NSWIS athlete Theo Coates placed 2nd in the Under 18's with Liam Michael in 3rd position.

NSWACT Open team member Sam Robertson – represented Australia at the FIS World Alpine Championships at Beaver Creek in February 2015 and with a phenomenal race finished an impressive 36th in the Mens Super G event. Also competing at the FIS World Alpine championships were Ross Peraudo, Dominic Demschar, Daniel Demschar, Luc Chevalier, Mike Rishworth and Luke Laidlaw. In the women events Greata Small competing in five events finished 15 in the Womens Super Combined with Lavinia Chrystal finishing 45th in the Womens GS and SL events.

The Australian New Zealand Cup series staged in late August in Perisher highlighted the next crop of NSW based FIS racers. In the womens events Zali Offord placed 11th in both GS events and an 8th place in the womens Slalom race. Matilda Coates finished 7th in the second Womens Slalom race with Zanna Farrell achieving 9th in the slalom and 12th in the GS event.

In the mens events Ross Peraudo finished 7th in the mens GS and 8th in the slalom event. On day 3 Jack Adams podiumed in the mens Slalom U21s. Oliver Thompson, Theo Coates, Jack Adams, Ned Neill and Liam Michael all performed well over the four days of competition – for some of these athletes it was their first FIS competition so they gained valuable experience.

In Children's racing this year –

6-7 March 2015 saw several NSW alpine athletes represent Australia in the international childrens series the 54th Trofeo Topolino held at Folgaria, Italy. Australian Childrens Squad members Henry Heydon (26th U14 GS), Zach Zontsich 30th U14 GS and 24th U14 SL, Theo Coates 32nd U16 GS and Zanna Farrell 38th U16 GS all performed in very competitive fields.

NSW and ACT athletes competed at the Whistler Cup in April this year – it was a well run event with two state teams plus NSW athletes competing in national teams with some excellent performances. Madison Hoffman 's 2nd place in Under 16 Super G event and a 10th in the GS, Sammie Gaul 2nd in the Under 14 Slalom and Ned Neill's 6th in the Under 16 Super G stood out. Tom Hoffman 12th and Tom Davies 19th in the Under 14 Slalom were noteworthy. Congratulations to all NSW athletes who competed in this event representing Australia and NSW and ACT.

This southern season athletes competed over two rounds of the SSA Australian Childrens Series. The TSRC Cup and the Blue Cow Cup were conducted over the weekend of 15-17 August with the second series conducted at Mt Buller 4-6 September. Some highlights from the National Children Championships – Under 12s – NSW athletes Letitia Murphy, Jacqueline Davis and Abbey Davis finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the GS, Laidley Dowling dominating the boys GS with 2 wins and Sam Fuller finishing 2nd.

Under 14s - NSWACT team members Lara Agnew and Isabella Davis winning one GS race each and NSWCT team members Tom Hoffman, Finn Sadler likewise won one race each in the boys GS events with teammate Joey Steggall finishing with a 2nd and a 3rd in the events.

Under 16s – NSWACT team member Madi Hoffman winning both GS races from fellow NSWACT team member Sammie Gaul with Bridget Lennon and NSWACT team member Lucy Neill each finishing 3rd in the girls GS races. NSWACT team member Connor Leggatt Connor winning one GS and finishing 2nd in the other boys. GS events.

The depth of talent amongst the younger athletes is very encouraging – many of the Under 16s will be graduating to the FIS next season and it will be exciting to see their development over the coming seasons.

NSWIS Scholarship

In 2015 NSWIS awarded two individual alpine scholarships – one for an athlete likely to represent Australia at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea and the second for an athlete demonstrating the potential to represent Australia at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing in 2022 . Congratulations to NSWACT athlete Theo Coates on being awarded an individual NSWIS Scholarship – a well deserved award.

NSWACT Rising Stars Awards

NSWACT Alpine, Perisher Winter Sports Club and Thredbo Ski Racing Club combined again this season to offer this exciting Award to talented Interschool racers without previous race club experience.

In 2015 9 alpine racers from Division 3, 4 or 5 across the Sydney, Northern or Southern/ACT regions were selected for this year's Alpine Rising Stars Awards. They receive a complimentary weekend of training at either TSRC or PWSC and free entry and race club assistance at the Blue Cow Cup on race day.

Congratulations to the following alpine racers: Eliza Grace Gannon - Div 3 Sydney, Maya Billingham Div 5 Sydney, Julia Murphy Div 5 Sydney, Max Manka Div 5 Northern, Claudia Braysich Div 4 Northern, Mimi Lavender Div 5 Northern, William Brake Div 4 Southern ACT, Max Juric Div 5 Southern ACT and Ross Vass Div 5 Southern ACT.

The 2015 Rising Stars will be recognized at tonight's Awards Presentation.

NSW Alpine would like to thank TSRC and PWSC for their assistance and continued support for with this program by providing the weekend training for the winners of these awards. The feedback from previous winners has been very positive with the majority of award winners joining a race club the following season and competing in SSA events

Thank you also to NSW Alpine Committee Secretary Kim Hough for her management of this important program again this year.

SERAS

The South Eastern Regional Academy of Sport (SERAS) program is open to NSW and ACT athletes aged 13 to 17 years. It provides two weekend camps each year (May and September) at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra which assist athletes with fitness coaching and testing plus information sessions relating to health, goal setting and sports psychology. It's interesting to note that at the Sochi Olympic Winter Games in 2014 seven former SERAS scholarship competed in snowsport events.

In 2015 there were 8 alpine NSW & ACT athletes who participated in the 2015 SERAS program.

Applications for 2016 will open in February 2016.

Fitness Testing and Training Sessions

Again in 2015 we worked closely with Manfred Wolscher, NSW Alpine and NAC strength and conditioning advisor who managed

Pre season weekend camp 17-19 April at Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen

Post season weekend camps were conducted over 2 weekends:

Under 12 & Under 14 year olds : 10-11 October at Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen and

Under 16 year olds and FIS athletes 17-18 October at Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen.

All the camps were well attended with over 30 athletes attending each camp – very positive feedback was received from athletes and parents as well as requests to consider exam timetables when scheduling for next year.

Weekly training sessions were conducted in Sydney (North Sydney oval) by Sami Kennedy Sim and in Jindabyne by Manuela Berchtold during school term 2. Term 4 weekly training sessions are to commence shortly which will assist athletes planning to train and compete in Europe and North America over the northern hemisphere winter.

Athletes participating in the camps benefitted from a subsidised attendance fee due to contributions from the NAC, TSRC and NSWACT Alpine.

Thanks to Manfred Wolscher and his team of fitness training professionals.

Alpine Officials Courses

These are the only accredited training course for alpine officials currently being offered in Australia and are always well attended. This year the Alpine Officials Level 1 Course was presented by Scott Sanderson, member of the NAC and Mt Hotham Race Club Program Director. The March course in Sydney, hosted by The Scots College was attended by 29 volunteers and aspiring alpine officials. The course was again delivered by Scott Sanderson in June at Jindabyne Central School and attended by 12 volunteers. Thanks to both schools for providing the venues for the courses.

This year as no government grant was attained these courses were underwritten solely by NSW Alpine.

We thank Scott Sanderson for delivering these courses and ensuring that our alpine athletes compete in competently officiated events each season. Thanks also to NSW Alpine Committee member John Adams for coordinating these courses.

Member Communication

A vital link in our alpine community and we particularly thank NSW Snowsports Executive Officer Rebecca Clark for her expertise in maintaining the NSW Alpine section of the NSW Snowsports website. In addition regular e-news updates kept our athletes and parents and supports fully informed throughout and post the season.

NSW Alpine Facebook page has continued to grow in popularity with 400 + friends receiving postings. News of alpine athletes results both here and overseas keeps everyone up to date and the photos (action and podium)

showcase our alpine athletes' talent. Everyone can easily follow the progress of our alpine athletes both here and in New Zealand, North America and Europe. It has proved the most popular as well as the fastest form of our communication. Thanks this year to editors Annette Pilat, Lavinia Chrystal (Snr) and Jenny Neill.

NSWACT Sponsors, Supporters & Fundraising

In order for NSWACT Alpine to continue to operate subsidized programs for alpine athletes in NSW and ACT it is essential that a reliable revenue stream be maintained and expanded as our programs and athlete members grow.

To this end NSWACT Alpine actively seeks sponsors and our Supporters and Sponsors program established in 2013 by Phil Coates and Gabi Robertson has continued to expand this year.

We would like to thank Thredbo Ski Racing Club, Lake Crackenback Resort, Richard & Ero Spanos, and John & Megan Leggatt for their generous donations to NSW Alpine.

NSW Alpine offers donors the opportunity to make tax deductible donations to NSW Alpine directly through the Australian Sports Foundation – donations can be made directly online.

Additionally, this year NSW Interschools and Perisher and Thredbo resorts have combined to offer high achieving alpine athletes practical support through the provision of winter season passes and training vouchers. For season 2015 NSW Interschools and Perisher resort provided 8 alpine athletes with season passes and PWSC training vouchers.

In 2016 this program is expanding to include Thredbo resort. At our Awards night this evening we will be presenting 6 Thredbo Scholarships and 10 Perisher Scholarships to worthy young Alpine athletes.

NSWACT Alpine thanks NSW Interschools, Perisher and Thredbo for their support of these scholarships.

NSW Alpine also conducts fundraising initiatives which included the 2nd Thin Air Fun Run – at Lake Crackenback in early July. This year 80 competitors ran over the 2km and 4km course around picturesque Lake Crackenback Resort and enjoyed a sumptuous post event feast as due reward. Thanks to Jenny Neill and Ero Spanos for their organizational skills with this event. The event raised \$2,700 for NSW Alpine. Special thanks again to Ski Japan and Lake Crackenback for their sponsorship of the 2015 Thin Air Fun Run.

A reminder that any practical support for the work of NSW Alpine is greatly appreciated and is also **tax deductible for donations made via the Australian Sports Foundation**. Please contact NSW Alpine for details.

NSW Alpine Awards Evening

This year's Awards evening is to follow this Annual General Meeting. Congratulations to the awards winners who will be announced shortly.

Our thanks also to the National Alpine Committee who have attended here this afternoon to update members on national alpine programs and issues pertinent to our alpine athletes. We thank Lachlan Clark and National Alpine Program director Brad Wall for their presentation and for the opportunity for those attending to participate in the discussion.

I would like to thank the NSW Alpine Committee members for their support this year. The committee met 9 times during this calendar year. As always there are many tasks required to ensure that NSW Alpine continues to effectively support alpine athletes in NSW through the programs initiatives already mentioned earlier. This committee has embraced all these tasks with unbridled enthusiasm.

Our committee meetings are open to interested parents, athletes and supporters to attend – this year there have been several parents who attended by invitation and made significant contributions to the committee. It is pleasing to see that a number of these parents are keen to now join the committee for next year. I would encourage any who are interested to come along to the meetings held usually monthly or bi monthly as a first step to becoming actively involved or just as an observer.

As most here know NSW Alpine combines with ACT Snowsports to operate athlete programs under the banner NSWACT Alpine – it always takes two to form a partnership so thanks to Rupert Winkler from ACT for his contribution to NSWACT Alpine.

NSW Alpine Committee will see some changes next year.

Last year **Annette Pilat** stepped down after 5 years chairing NSW Alpine Committee. I would like to thank Annette for her guidance over this past year – it was very generous of her to stay on committee to assist with the transition. In addition the wonderful contribution she has made to your committee over 5 years has been mentioned previously but is worth repeating - Rising Stars Awards, Whistler Cup state teams, obtaining government grants to fund officials training program and fitness programs, athlete grants to state team members to assist competition and travelling & training expenses, improved communication (Facebook), outstanding representation for alpine at NSW Snowsports board level, an excellent working relationship with SSA, NSW Interschools, the NAC, the race clubs, the resorts. Thank you Annette for advancing the cause of alpine ski racing over the past 6 years.

Gabi Robertson has served on NSW Alpine Committee since 2010 – we thank her for her contribution particularly in developing the sponsorship program initiated by Phil Coates in 2013. Also her work in promoting alpine ski racing and alpine athletes through the media - writing numerous articles and supplying photos. As a parent of an elite alpine athlete competing at the top of international competition Gabi brought immense knowledge and experience to the Committee.

Angus Thompson has served on committee since 2010 with 4 years as Treasurer. Likewise as a parent of an elite level alpine athlete Angus has witnessed alpine events and developments within the sport around the globe – we thank him for his contribution to the committee.

The NSW Alpine Committee for 2015 comprised –

Kim Hough (Secretary), Jenny Neill (Treasurer), Annette Pilat, John Adams, Cath Wynn, Graham Selig, Angus Thompson and Gabi Robertson.

I would like to thank the committee for their support this year -it's been a pleasure to work with you continuing the good work of our predecessors to support our alpine athletes as they each progress through the sport. In particular thank you to Kim Hough who has been Secretary for the past 4 years and to Jenny Neill who has just completed her first year as Treasurer – both have made significant contributions to the Committee.

I am standing down from chairing NSW Alpine Committee to make way for some new faces and some familiar ones too plus new ideas but will remain on committee this next year to assist the incoming Chair with the transition.

A special thank you to my wife Lavinia for her support including hosting committee meetings and editing NSW Alpine's Facebook page.

It's been an enjoyable and worthwhile experience to be part of this committee and I wish the incoming committee continued success. Right now there is great enthusiasm and energy amongst the committee to assist our alpine athletes – if you are interested in attending committee meetings or indeed joining the committee please contact the committee or email: nswalpine@live.com.au.

I wish NSW alpine athletes a successful season in 2016.

David Chrystal
Chair, NSW Alpine Committee

24 October 2015

